

CIRM Board Approves Continued Funding for SPARK and Alpha Stem Cell Clinics

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Oakland, CA – Today the governing Board of the California Institute for Regenerative Medicine (CIRM) approved \$8.5 million to continue funding of the Summer Program to Accelerate Regenerative Medicine Knowledge (SPARK) and Alpha Stem Cell Clinics (ASCC).

This past February, the Board approved continued funding for stem cell focused educational programs geared towards undergraduate, masters, pre/postdoctoral, and medical students. The SPARK program is an existing CIRM educational program that provides for a summer internship for high school students.

To continue support for SPARK, the Board has approved \$5.1 million to be allocated to ten new awards (\$509,000 each) with up to a five-year duration to support 500 trainees. The funds will enable high school students all across California to directly take part in summer research at various institutions with a stem cell, gene therapy, or regenerative medicine focus. The goal of these programs is to prepare and inspire the next generation of scientists and provide opportunities for California's diverse population, including those who might not have the opportunity to take part in summer research internships due to socioeconomic constraints.

CIRM's ASCC Network is a unique regenerative medicine-focused clinical trial network that currently consists of five medical centers across California who specialize in accelerating stem cell and gene-therapy clinical trials by leveraging of resources to promote efficiency, sharing expertise, and enhancing chances of success for the patients. To date, over 105 trials in various disease indications have been supported by the ASCC Network. While there are plans being developed for a significant ASCC Network expansion by some time next year, funding for all five sites has ended or are approaching the end of their current award period. To maintain the level of activity of the ASCC Network until expansion funding is available next year, the Board approved \$3.4 million to be allocated to five supplemental awards (up to \$680,000 each) in order to provide continued funding to all five sites; the host institutions will be required to match the CIRM award. These funds will support talent retention and program key activities such as the coordination of clinical research, management of patient and public inquiries, and other operational activities vital to the ASCC Network.

"Education and infrastructure are two funding pillars critical for creating the next generation of researchers and conducting stem cell based clinical trials" says Maria T. Millan, M.D., President and CEO of CIRM. "The importance of these programs was acknowledged in Proposition 14 and we expect that they will continue to be important components of CIRM's programs and strategic direction in the years to come."

The Board also awarded \$14.5 million to fund three translational stage research projects (TRAN1), whose goal is to support early development activities necessary for advancement to a clinical study or broad end use of a potential therapy.

The awards are summarized in the table below:

Application	Title	Institution	Award Amount
TRAN1-12245	Development of novel synNotch CART cell therapy in patients with recurrent EGFRvIII+ glioblastoma	UCSF	\$2,663,144

TRAN1-12258	CAR-Tnm cell therapy for melanoma targeting TYRP-1	UCLA	\$5,904,462
TRAN1-12250	HSC-Engineered Off-The-Shelf CAR-iNKT Cell Therapy for Multiple Myeloma	UCLA	\$5,949,651

About CIRM

At CIRM, we never forget that we were created by the people of California to accelerate stem cell treatments to patients with unmet medical needs, and act with a sense of urgency to succeed in that mission.

To meet this challenge, our team of highly trained and experienced professionals actively partners with both academia and industry in a hands-on, entrepreneurial environment to fast track the development of today's most promising stem cell technologies.

With \$5.5 billion in funding and more than 150 active stem cell programs in our portfolio, CIRM is the world's largest institution dedicated to helping people by bringing the future of cellular medicine closer to reality.

For more information go to www.cirm.ca.gov

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